



Ninth Grade Summer Reading 2020

Dear students entering 9th grade,

This coming year we will be studying World Literature across a wide variety of time periods. Our course will consider what it means to be a hero: both tragically and epically. Our texts will examine a wide range of protagonists all of whom have some traits of a hero. So when you read this summer and answer the following questions, know that it is with the mindset of considering what are the traits associated with a hero.

Summer English to-do list

- Read *The Hobbit*; answer questions, proofread, and print
- Read choice book; answer questions, proofread, and print
- Learn Latin and Greek bases (see details below)
- Bring all English books for the year on Day 1

READING

1) required: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

2) required: choose one of the following books (choose one you've not already read). Each exemplifies the hero's journey as a protagonist navigates a challenging and changing world.

- *Circe* by Madeline Miller is about Circe, the sun god Helios' daughter, who learns she has special powers and finds herself pitted against one of the most terrifying and vengeful of the Olympians. She must choose whether she belongs with the gods she is born from, or the mortals she has come to love.
- *The Hidden Oracle: Trials of Apollo* by Rick Riordan is about the god Apollo who is sent to Earth as a teenage boy without his powers and who must learn to survive.
- *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline is about a gamer in 2045 who goes on a quest to solve an online puzzle that has real world consequences.
- *Divergent* by Veronica Roth is an action-packed science fiction novel where Beatrice has to choose between staying with her family or becoming who she really is.

Writing for *The Hobbit*:

Consider Bilbo as a hero. Remember to actively read (take notes in the margin, use sticky notes, keep a journal, etc.) so you can recall the details, page numbers, and themes of the text. You may type or write your responses. Our first essay in the Fall will utilize this information.

- What does Bilbo do that makes him seem heroic? Find *three* examples with quotations and page numbers. Please explain what characteristics of a hero you associate with each example you have given.
- Describe *three* of the obstacles / challenges on his journey and how Bilbo responds. In what ways does Bilbo change / grow as a result of these obstacles? Find *three* quotations that show his changing awareness of himself and that prove to you that he is developing. Quote and analyze.

Writing for *Your Choice Book*:

Consider your novel's protagonist as a hero. You may type or write. Remember to actively read so you can recall the details, page numbers, and themes of the text. Both REQUIRE quotes and page numbers to go with your responses. Similarly to what you completed for *The Hobbit*:

- Find 3 examples of the protagonist being heroic and analyzing how/why.
- Find 3 examples where your protagonist grows/changes because of an obstacle. Quote and analyze how they have changed because of that ordeal.

Latin and Greek (for new and for returning students)

Students coming from Crossroads 8th into our 9th grade already know Latin and Greek bases in Lessons 1-20 in *Everyday Words from Classic Origins* as well as a vocabulary word for each base. They should review to stay fresh. They will be re-tested on these in August.

Students joining us new in the 9th grade should learn Latin bases in Lessons 1-4 found in *Everyday Words from Classic Origins*. We will ask you to learn the other lessons in the first semester. The workbook, *Everyday Words from Classic Origins*, is available from many sellers.

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

Brian Parsons

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BOOKS for our course:

- *Everyday Words from Classic Origins* (ISBN 978-0789156846). Purchase this workbook.
- *Beowulf*, S. Heaney (ISBN 9780374111192)
- *The Odyssey*, G. Hinds (ISBN 9780763642686) Graphic novel ... please purchase this specific version
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, K. Hosseini (ISBN 9780739489505)
- *Nervous Conditions*, T. Dangarembga (ISBN 978-0954702335)
- *Othello*, Shakespeare (ISBN 978150114629)